

What is claimed is:

- 1    1.    A keyboard for use with a medical software application program,  
2    comprising:  
3        a first plurality of keys having a first visually distinguishing characteristic,  
4    wherein keys in the first plurality of keys include an icon representative of an  
5    image display function such that when a key from the first plurality of keys is  
6    activated, the image display function represented by the icon associated with the  
7    activated key is performed by the medical software application program; and  
8        a second plurality of keys having a second visually distinguishing  
9    characteristic, wherein the second plurality of keys include an indication  
10   representing an image navigation function such that when a key from the second  
11   plurality of keys is activated, the image navigation function associated with the  
12   activated key is performed by the medical software application program.
- 1    2.    The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a third plurality of keys  
2    having a third visually distinguishing characteristic, wherein the third plurality of  
3    keys includes an indication representative of an image manipulation function  
4    such that when a key from the third plurality of keys is activated, the image  
5    manipulation function represented by the indication associated with the activated  
6    key is performed by the medical software application program.

1     3.     The keyboard of claim 2, further comprising a fourth plurality of keys  
2     having a fourth visually distinguishing characteristic, wherein the fourth plurality  
3     of keys includes an indication representative of a patient information function  
4     such that when a key from the fourth plurality of keys is activated, the patient  
5     information function represented by the indication associated with the activated  
6     key is performed by the medical software application program

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8     4.     The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the first visually distinguishing  
9     characteristic comprises a first color.

1     5.     The keyboard of claim 4, wherein the second visually distinguishing  
2     characteristic comprises a second color, wherein the second color is different  
3     from the first color.

1     6.     The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the first visually distinguishing  
2     characteristic comprises a first color, the second visually distinguishing  
3     characteristic comprises a second color different from the first color, and the  
4     third visually distinguishing characteristic comprises a third color different from  
5     the first and second colors.

1     7.     The keyboard of claim 3, wherein the first visually distinguishing  
2     characteristic comprises a first color, the second visually distinguishing  
3     characteristic comprises a second color different from the first color, the third  
4     visually distinguishing characteristic comprises a third color different from the  
5     first and second colors, and the fourth visually distinguishing characteristic  
6     comprises a fourth color different from the first, second and third colors.

1     8.     The keyboard of claim 1, wherein each key in the first plurality of keys  
2     includes an icon representing a radiological display function.

1     9.     The keyboard of claim 8, wherein the radiological display functions are  
2     associated with predetermined body regions.

1     10.    The keyboard of claim 9, wherein the predetermined body regions are  
2     selected from the group consisting of one or more of the head, neck, lung, liver,  
3     knee, abdomen, bone, spine, mediastium, pelvis and whole body.

1     11.    The keyboard of claim 8, wherein the radiological display functions include  
2     window and level presets for display of a radiographic image.

1     12.    The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the first plurality of keys further  
2     comprise a text label indicative of the display function associated with the key.

1 13. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein each of the first plurality of keys is

2 adjacent to at least one other of the first plurality of keys.

1 14. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the image navigation functions are

2 selected from the group consisting of one or more of first image, last image, next

3 image, previous image, next series, previous series, first series and last series.

1 15. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein at least one of the indications for the

2 second plurality of keys comprise a text label.

1 16. The keyboard of claim 15, wherein at least one of the indications for the

2 second plurality of keys further comprise an icon.

1 17. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein each of the second plurality of keys is

2 adjacent to at least one other of the second plurality of keys.

1 18. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the image manipulation functions are

2 selected from the group consisting of one or more of retrieve patient

3 information, measurement tools, synchronization of images, image filters and

4 presets, cross correlation, 3D reconstruction.

1 19. The keyboard of claim 18, wherein at least one of the indications for the  
2 third plurality of keys comprise an icon.

1 20. The keyboard of claim 19, wherein at least one of the indications for the  
2 third plurality of keys further comprise a text label.

1 21. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein each of the third plurality of keys is  
2 adjacent to at least one other of the third plurality of keys.

1 22. The keyboard of claim 3, wherein each of the third plurality of keys is  
2 adjacent to at least one other of the third plurality of keys.

1 23. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the medical software application  
2 program comprises a radiographic software application program.